

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0011] of the Specification with the following paragraph:

[0011] More particularly, nanocomposites comprising carbon nanotubes as particulate filler have already been proposed for various applications (Ajayan, P.M. 1999 *Chem Rev* 99:1787-1799; Demczyk, B.G. et al. 2002 *Materials Sci and Eng A* 334:173-178; Lau, K.-T. and Hui, D. 2002 *Composites: Part B* 33:263-277; and Thostenson, E.T. et al. 2001 *Composites Science and Technology* 61:1899-1912) [3-6]. Carbon nanotubes are in fact one of the allotropic forms of carbon, which may be seen as one or more leaflets of graphite rolled into a cylinder and sealed at the ends. These carbon nanotubes are, inter alia, characterized by good mechanical properties since their tensile strength is 40 times greater than that of carbon fibres, and also good electrical properties, to the point that they have been proposed for the manufacture of semiconductors or metallic conductors, depending on the structure of the nanotube.

Please replace paragraph [0031] of the Specification with the following paragraph:

[0131] The fillers used were multi-walled carbon nanotubes (MWNTs). Two types of nanotubes were used, i.e. crude MWNTs still containing 30% by weight of catalytic impurities (mainly about 30% by weight of alumina, 0.3% by weight of cobalt and 0.3% by weight of iron) and purified MWNTs containing traces of catalytic impurities (0.2% by weight of alumina, 0.3% by weight of iron and 0.3% by weight of cobalt). ~~These nanotubes were provided by the department of Professor J.B. Nagy of the Facultés Universitaires Notre Dame de la Paix, Namur.~~